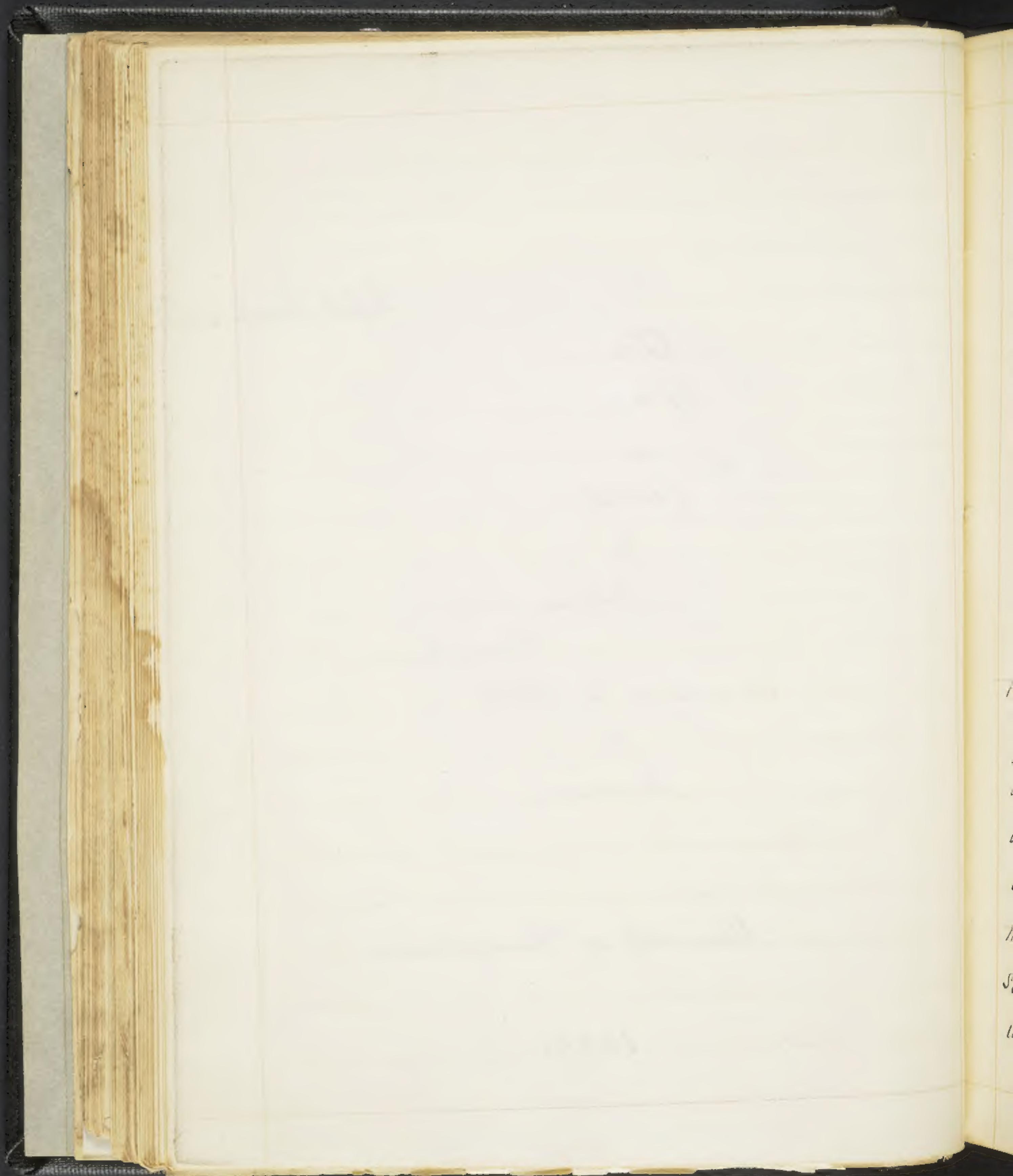


Rehd March 6. 182

An  
Essay  
on  
Gastritis  
by  
William Irvin  
Pennsylvania  
For a degree of Doctor  
of  
Medicine.

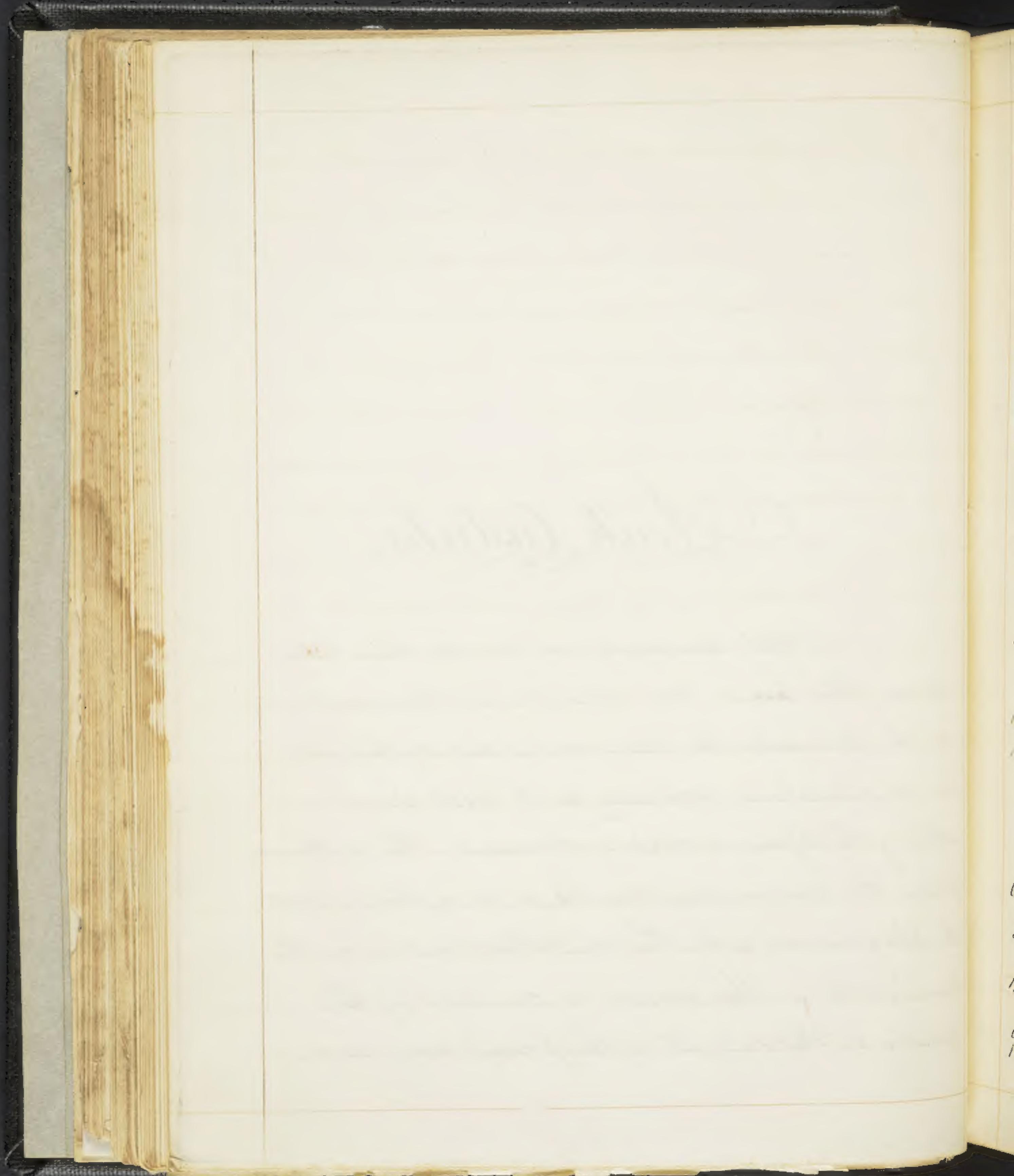
University of Pennsylvania

1829.



## *Acute Gastritis.*

Most nosologists and among them Cullen tell us there are two species of inflammation of the stomach; the phlegmonous and erythematous or erysipelatous, according as it exists in one or other of the tissues or coats of stomach. The erythematous when the mucous membrane is in an inflamed state the phlegmonous, when the muscular coat is in the same state. This division is coincided by other writers on this subject, of the present day, as an



arbitrary division, and of no practical use. —

The mucous coat is primarily affected most generally — Serious, rarely if ever, except it is the result of external violence —

**Causes.** This disease may be excited by all the ordinary causes of inflammation; more particularly by exposure to cold, by drinking cold water, or by swallowing acid, poisonous or stimulating articles — It may also be excited by external violence, as blows or falls, and is sometimes the consequence of repelled or misplaced heat, or any of the phlegmasia — Marsh miasma, indigestible food, and indulgence in the eating of fruit &c &c, are the most frequent causes of this disease —

**Symptoms.** In the commencement, there is a loss of appetite, general languor, soon after a sensation of weight or pain in the epigastric region this pain is considerably increased by pressure, great irritability of stomach, nausea, vomiting



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8th inst - and in the more advanced stage tension about  
the umbilical region - -

The general symptoms consist in headache  
pain & burning over orbits of the eye, a sudden prostration  
of strength - This last symptom shows the effect of the  
sympathies existing between the stomach & the rest of  
the animal economy - The skin is dry & hot, the  
pulse from the very commencement is small, corded  
and not very quick - Cases occur where the pulse  
is but slightly disturbed -

This disease generally runs its course rapidly  
and if not arrested by medical agents, all the above  
enumerated symptoms are aggravated - These  
are attended with spasmodic colicky uneasiness - sharp  
lancinating pains, pulse hard and corded the head  
affected, and countenance emaciated

The prostration of syphus is so great that frequently  
when the patient is raised in bed, he faints - added to  
all these we have, cold ulcerations, a moist cold

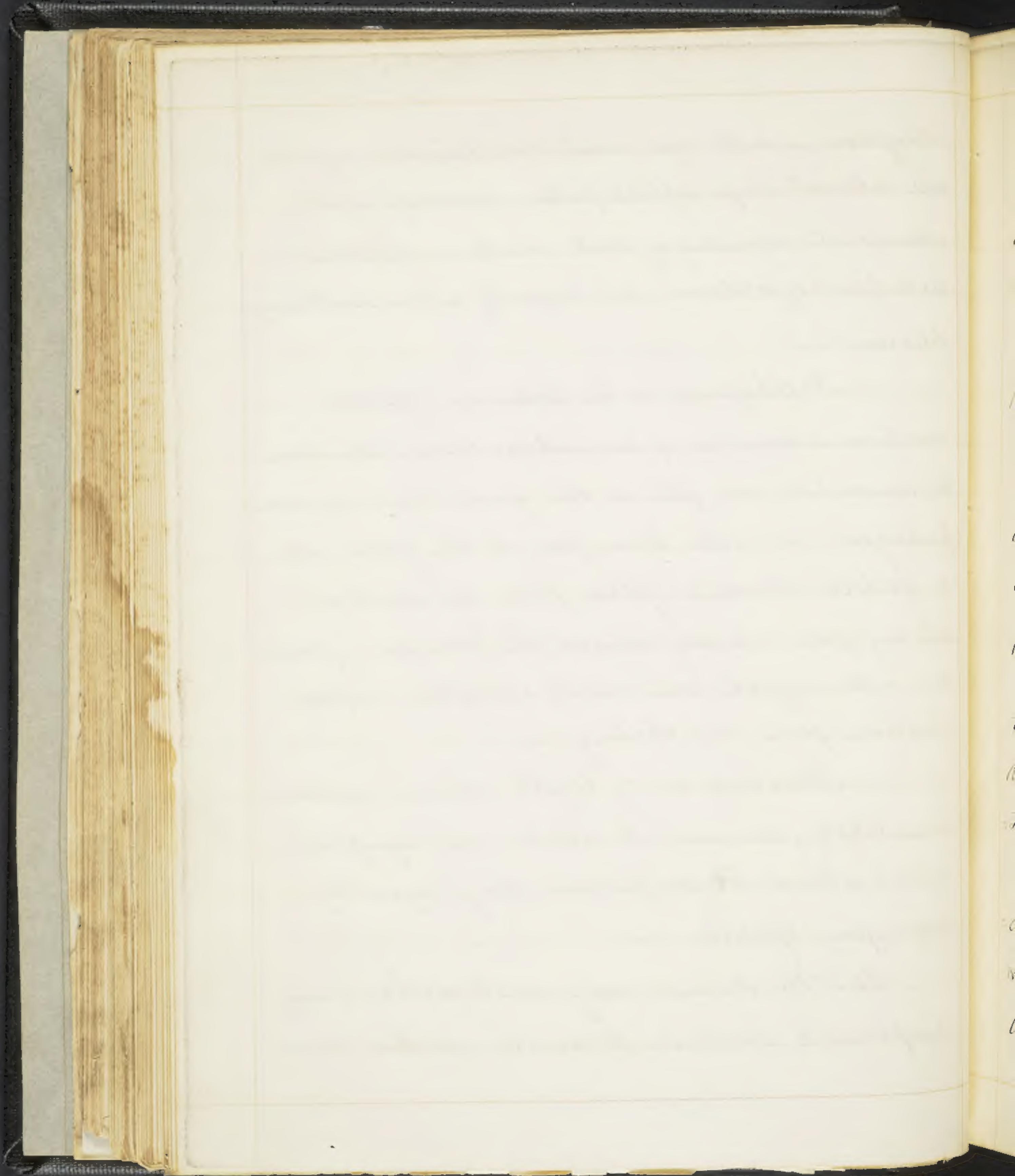


Surface, a wild eye, lank countenance, a pale  
and almost imperceptible pulse, hiccup, with  
occasional vomiting of dark matter a flatulent  
distention of abdomen, and frequently a low muttering  
delirium -

Dr Chapman in his lecture on Gastritis  
mentions a number of anomalous cases - sometimes  
inflammation and pain in the great toe attending  
podagra - at other times pain in the groin - and  
in Gastritis attending yellow fever, and also that  
arising from ordinary causes, the pudenda of females  
are often affected with much irritation, inflam-  
mation pain and itching -

Intolerance of light, extreme nervous  
sensitivity, aversion to drink, and symptoms  
which attend Hydrocephalus, very frequently  
accompany Gastritis -

But the disease may exist without any  
symptoms to denote its presence, and these cases



may run on to mortification and death.

Instances of this kind are on record, and disfection alone recalled the cause of Death.

Gastritis may be minute by ulceration, suppuration, ulceration, gangrene, or scrophularious, especially at the pylorus. —

Diagnoses. This disease may easily be distinguished from the spasmodic and flatulent pain this organ is subject to. In gastritis we have the pulse, small, chorod and not very quick. —

In cramp it is natural — In gastritis the stomach is very irritable, and we have violent vomiting. Warm drinks ease this almost immediately. In cramp this rarely occurs. —

The pain of gastritis is continuous, and considerably increased by pressure. The spasms of the stomach it is of a paroxysmal nature or intermittent. — In gastritis the patient lies



on his back, with his knees drawn up, without moving. In cramp he sets up with his body bent forward, or with his head during the violence of the pain. In Gastritis the skin is hot and dry in cramp, generally cold and moist. Hiccup is a common symptom of Gastritis. In cramp seldom or never. So very different are the symptoms of the two diseases, that we could scarcely mistake the one for the other.

Autopsic Inquiries. Examination after death show the inner or mucous coat of the stomach, to be the seat of this disease. It is usually much thickened and red, with granulations eroded, or ulcerated spots.

We find in the very valuable inquiries of Dr. Horner into the healthy and disease appearance of the mucous membrane of the stomach and intestines, an account of the changes in stomach after death, arising from accl. Gastritis.



"I shall take the liberty of copying the case as  
reported by this able Pathologist.

"Observation 12th. Acute Gastritis. During the month  
of July of the year 1826, I lost a patient, Geo. Andrew  
aged about sixty, from a violent malignant fever,  
of about eight days duration, attended with great  
prostration of strength, tenderness of the epigastrium,  
unlability of the stomach, high fever with coma  
and occasional delirium; a saffron-colored skin  
and black tongue attended the last days of his disease.

I examined him in the presence of Dr Hodges, Dr  
La Roche; the post mortem surface, of that abdomen, &  
of its viscera we found healthy, but the mucous  
coat of the stomach presented in its cardiac  
portion a large mottled patch of coagulated blood  
as big as the palm of my hand. It also presented  
smaller patches of coagulated mucus in other regions. His  
symptoms were with the exception of black vomit,  
of such untidiness, that his case would in time ex-



Yellow fever, have been set down to that disease.

The same patched appearance is sometimes  
referred to the intestinal canal."

Prognosis.

The symptoms are favourable, . . . on  
the third or fourth day the pulse becomes more  
soft and full, and is diminished in frequency; the  
pain in the epigastric region gradually ceasing,  
and the urine depositing a sediment, or a diarrhoea  
comes on.

The symptoms are unfavourable, if there  
are severe rigors followed by a sense of weight  
in the stomach. — —

( . . .  
is not met.

In the treatment of this disease  
the indications are very clear. We have visible  
inflammation in a very important organ, and  
one in which a disease most generally visits it.



courses rapidly - Our duty then is to apply the most efficient remedies, the moment we are called on. Enseption undoubtedly is the remedy, but calculated in the early stage, to overcome those violent symptoms which are presented to us - This should be carried to considerate extent in the words, Dr Chapman - hyperdilated the state of the pulse, & apparent prostration of the system - we must not only dilute, but dilute largely - If the patient is in a robust condition it will be proper to take 20 or 30 ℥. I once injected it necessary - By so doing we will have a case of ordinary inflammation developed, infinitely more manageable than the attack which had preceded it. Dr Chapman has known quantities of blood to be taken in one simple case of inflammation of the stomach -

Two cups & leeches are to be used also. These should be applied to the epigastrum - The



meches are, however, but ab. these are not to be used. Caps may be substituted - after the fomentations should be applied. Cold applications are ungently, however, serviceable. Abdominal fomentations should follow, these should be large enough to cover the whole region of the stomach -

Fomentations to the abdomen. Bladders filled with hot water, or flannel cloths wrung out of hot water or nutritious ligaments, will answer very well - These add very much to the relief and comfort of the patient -

The irritability of the stomach should be allayed by lime water, the following draught so, if these fail by an anodyne enema & th warm bath. -

The state of the stomach in this disease precludes as soon the employment of mustard emulsion - So irritable is the stomach that almost every thing that is swallowed, is rejected instantaneously



While the stomach is in this situation...  
should make use of mild injections. These  
should be thrown up the stomach in large  
quantities. Dr Chapman's prescription is  
to take one pint and a half of musilage or  
gum arabic or flax seed tea, and add a little  
Castor oil or molasses. This should be repeated  
frequently. Thus we not only keep the bowels  
in a soluble state, but the injections also act  
as fomentations to the exterior. —

As soon as the stomach will bear  
it, Calomel may be given to open the bowels  
more effectually. This should be given in  
small and repeated doses. Large doses combined  
with opium is sometimes pernicious.

Dr Chapman considers Calomel as one of our best  
and mildest cathartics, and says, it can be given  
when almost every other purgative would be rejected.  
The neutral salts are an excellent class.



remedies in this disease, and among the best of these are the Epsom salts. The stomach very frequently is tranquillized by this article and vomiting checked.

Our great object in this disease is to calm the stomach from the commencement. Since bath as we have stated before, is one of our best and most effectual remedies. The warm bath may be employed to great advantage. This with perspiration, calms the irritability of the stomach, diffuses a glow over the whole surface, and renders the patient rapidly more comfortable.

Although mucilaginous drinks are particularly recommended by the French, and even by some of our most distinguished physicians, yet our distinguished Professor seems to think they are highly mischievous, especially in the commencement of the attack. The deposits thus under the stomach soon irritate, in the opinion

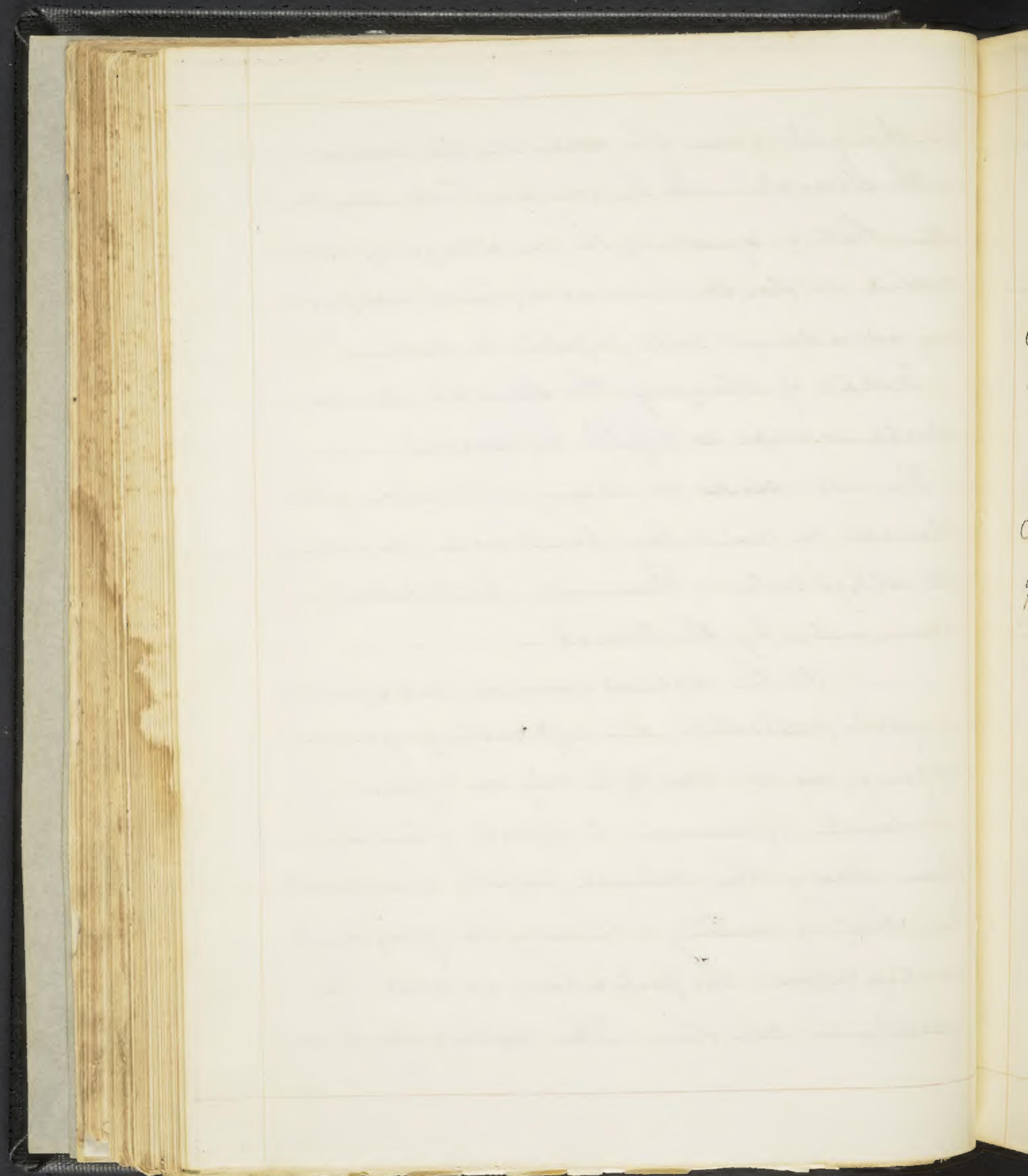


sheathing it from the acid matter contained  
in the stomach - In his own words "Can any one  
believe that by spreading the mucilage of gum  
arabic or flaxseed over an inflamed surface,  
any advantage could possibly be derived?"

Instead of deluging the stomach, drinks  
should as much as possible be avoided -

The best drinks for allaying irritation of the  
stomach are mint tea, toast water, and above  
all seltzer water - Lemonade particularly  
recommended by the French -

As the disease advances, and symptoms  
of great prostration, and approaching gangrene  
appear, we are chiefly to rely on opium,  
carbonate of ammonia & spirits of turpentine  
Opium among other valuable properties is supposed to  
have that of arresting a tendency to gangrene &  
mortification - and particularly as relates to  
gastritis and enteritis - This failing spirits of



Turpentine is becoming of much confidence.

It was recommended in yellow Fever to allay  
vomiting in the early stage, but many practitioners  
extended its use to inflammation of the alimentary  
canal, & the advantages produced were of the  
most striking kind —

Thus I have endeavored to give the  
Character, Causes, Symptoms, Treatment &c  
of one of the most interesting diseases in  
the nosological list, — —

It is but a slight and imperfect  
sketch, unworthy the notice of men so  
distinguished for their talents, industry, and  
moral worth —

That it may answer the purpose for  
which it is intended is the sincere wish  
of your unworthy pupil. — —

